



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

March 30, 2023

AL TSA: NH #2023-015
**DISCONTINUING DISCRETIONARY TASKS AND RESUMING MANDATORY FACILITY
TASKS IN THE LONG-TERM CARE SURVEY PROCESS**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) allowed certain flexibilities, waivers, and changes to survey activities.

On January 6, 2022, Residential Care Services (RCS) published MB [R22-003](#), announcing release of [QSO 22-02-ALL](#), stating that CMS made changes to COVID-19 survey activities to address backlog of complaint and recertification surveys. More specifically, CMS temporarily allowed certain mandatory tasks to be discretionary based on concerns identified during offsite preparation activities or onsite survey activities.

Discretionary tasks include:

- Resident Council Meeting
- Dining Observation Task
- Medication Storage

Starting **April 15, 2023**, RCS will resume all mandatory facility tasks within the Long-Term Care Survey Process that were previously discretionary tasks. Though CMS does not require this change, RCS is taking this action to move toward reimplementing the full survey process focusing on nursing home residents' health and safety.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Molly McClintock, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (360) 742-6966 or molly.mcclintock@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"